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September 13, 1968

Attention: Ed D.

Subject: Control #02228 - Status Report  
for Period Ending August 31, 1968

Gentlemen:

During this report period the following tasks have been performed.

1. On August 1, Ed D. and personnel from the [redacted] visited [redacted] to discuss human engineering aspects pertinent to the twin stage comparator and instrument console. This discussion was primarily concerned with location of operator controls on the instrument console. [redacted] requested a list of all anticipated instrument controls and a dimensioned outline scale drawing showing the location of the twin stage comparator on the instrument console. By mid August the requested information had been sent to Ed D. for forwarding to the [redacted]. The accuracy of the 41 in. dimension specified in the contract as an ideal floor to eyepoint position for the viewing system was questioned by the [redacted]. It is felt that this dimension should instead be 48 in. and suggested that perhaps the 41 in. was in fact a typing error. [redacted] intends to check this dimension and recommend to the customer which of the two is desirable to best satisfy the human engineering design aspect.
2. A portion of the August 1, meeting with the technical representative was concerned with a discussion of the stereo head loaned to the [redacted] by the customer. This stereo head did not agree physically with photographs supplied by [redacted] of their current model stereo head and the [redacted] expressed concern over the fact that there could also be internal differences in the optical system. As a result of this conversation, the technical representative agreed as requested by the [redacted] to inquire of [redacted] if the optical system in the stereo head supplied by the customer was identical to that which would be ordered for use on the twin stage comparator. He further agreed to ask [redacted] for an optical schematic of the current model stereo head. The results of these two requests are

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discussed later in this status report. Until the similarity between the optical systems in the stereo head loaned by the customer and the [ ] current model could be established, it was decided that performance criteria for the stereo viewing system used on the twin stage comparator could not be determined. This decision was mutually agreed upon by the technical representative and the [ ]

3. A design layout of the X and Y coordinate stage motions has been started during this report period.
4. A design layout of the X and Y axis motor drive units has been started. This layout will also be used to investigate the feasibility of mounting and gearing the shaft encoders directly to the motor drive units. If such a drive unit could be designed it would result in a more compact assembly.
5. A preliminary scale layout of the twin stage comparator and instrument console has been completed. This layout will be useful in determining the location of operator controls. It should also prove helpful in investigating possible locations for other related components.
6. The optical design necessary to modify the stereo head was not started during this report period as previously planned because information required for this task could not be obtained.
7. [ ] has not started purchase negotiations with [ ] for a stereo head because the specification submitted to the customer in July has not as yet been approved.

It is estimated that approximately 5% of the work on the twin stage comparator contract has been completed as of this reporting date.

During the next report period the [ ] plans to do the following work.

1. Send the customer's approved specification for the stereo head to [ ] with a request for a written price quotation and delivery date for one unit manufactured in accordance with these specifications.
2. Start the optical design for the substage illumination system.

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3. Start a design layout of the Y coordinate precision lead screws and bearing assemblies.
4. Investigate the possibility of incorporating the light source assembly in the instrument console to thermally isolate the lamp heat from the instrument base.

mirror in object  
have objective  
doesn't move

During this reporting period it has become increasingly evident that the concern expressed during contract negotiations and again more recently in our July status report regarding the procurement of a [ ] stereo head for inclusion in the twin stage comparator has now become an extremely important consideration with respect to delivery date. When your request RD10-68 was received, the [ ] contacted [ ] to make inquiries pertaining to the procurement of the stereo head. [ ] that he was familiar with the customer's requirements and would supply a written price quotation and delivery date. A copy of this quotation was included in our response letter dated December 7, 1967. During the contract negotiation period, the [ ] was assured that the customer would supply specifications with the contract suitable for ordering the stereo head from [ ]. It was also agreed that a suitable stereo head would be loaned to the [ ] early in the contract. The understanding was that this stereo head could be used to obtain the data necessary for solution of design problems which would be encountered in modification of the unit purchased for use on the twin stage comparator. The delivery date quoted by the [ ] was contingent upon the loan of a suitable stereo head and being able to use the specifications furnished with the contract to immediately place an order with [ ]. Unfortunately this has not been possible to date.

When the [ ] received the contract (Control #02228) on July 15, 1968, specifications for ordering the stereo head were not included. During a telephone conversation with the contracting officer on July 16, regarding this omission, the [ ] was informed that specifications for ordering the stereo head were not presently available. In addition, stringent performance requirements for the stereo head not present in the request RD10-68 had been included in the contract. In the interest of expediting the procurement of the stereo head, the [ ] asked for, and received, permission to draft specifications for a stereo head based on the performance criteria stated in the contract. This was to be done with the understanding that the resulting specifications would be forwarded to the customer for approval prior to their being submitted to [ ].

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These specifications were completed and a copy mailed to the technical representative on July 23, for correction and approval at his earliest convenience so a purchase order could be placed for a stereo head.

On July 23, the [ ] received the stereo head which the customer had promised to supply on a loan basis. Because this stereo head was physically different from photographs obtained from [ ] of their current model stereo heads, the [ ] became concerned over the possibility of internal changes in the optical train. Consequently the technical representative was asked on August 1, to contact [ ] with regard to possible optical variations between the stereo head on loan and the unit to be finally used on the twin stage comparator. The technical representative was also asked to request from [ ] an optical schematic of their current model stereo head. It was made clear that the [ ] did not expect to receive proprietary information from [ ] which would reveal the specifications necessary to manufacture the optical elements used in the stereo head. The technical representative notified the [ ] on August 8, with the information that the relay lens system in the stereo head loaned to the [ ] was different from the current model stereo heads. Also, [ ] had informed the technical representative that they could not find the optical schematic drawing for their current model stereo head.

On August 9, the [ ] telephoned the technical representative and asked if it would be possible to exchange the early model stereo head loaned by the customer for one of the current models owned by them. This exchange could not be arranged because the customer was using all their current model stereo heads.

On August 30, when the approved copy of the specifications had still not been received by the [ ] a telephone call was made to the customer's facility to inquire as to its current status. The technical representative was not in the facility so it was requested that he call the [ ] the week of September 1, to discuss the status of the stereo head specifications.

With the situation as it now stands, it becomes obvious that the delivery date of the contract may be in question. The delivery date quoted by the [ ] was contingent on timely receipt of the stereo head from [ ] and the availability of a suitable stereo head which could be used to obtain the data necessary to modify the unit purchased from [ ]. Assuming that the approved specifications for the stereo head are

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returned to the [ ] in September, it will still require some time to obtain a written delivery date and price quotation from [ ]. If these purchase negotiations could be completed during September in time to place a purchase order, delivery would be made late in April 1969, providing the vendors previously quoted 30 weeks delivery time is not increased. It is entirely possible that the stereo head will not be received by the [ ] until after the April 27, 1969, delivery date for the complete system, including a fully modified stereo viewer.

In the interest of satisfying, or at least attaining, the earliest possible delivery date for the twin stage comparator, the [ ] would like to suggest several alternative courses of action for the customer's consideration.

1. At this writing it appears that the only possible way to meet the present delivery date would be to obtain a suitable stereo head from the customer on an exchange basis as soon as possible, but in any event, no later than the end of December 1968. The head supplied by the customer would be modified and mounted on the twin stage comparator. A replacement stereo head would be delivered to the customer in exchange for the borrowed one as soon as it could be obtained from [ ].
2. If the first course of action is not acceptable to the customer, a second best delivery date could be realized by loaning the [ ] a suitable stereo head for a short period of time. It is anticipated that sufficient data could be obtained during this loan period so the length of time, commencing with delivery of an acceptable stereo head by [ ] through delivery of the twin stage comparator to the customer, be kept at a minimum.
3. The third course of action is the one facing the [ ] at the present time. If neither of the first two suggestions are acceptable to the customer, the date of delivery will be greatly extended. Without information on the optical and mechanical portions of the stereo head, it will be impossible for the [ ] to design those optical and mechanical modifications required to adapt it to the twin stage comparator. Regrettably, this same lack of information also restricts or prevents progress on all related components of the instrument.

If the customer cannot provide the [ ] with information on the stereo head in the near future, continued design effort on the twin stage

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comparator will soon become impractical. The  intends to invite the technical representative to visit its facility in the near future to explore more fully the areas in question.

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A Status of Funds Statement will be found on the following page of this report.

Very truly yours,

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Asst. Manager, Engineering

HBB:pc

Attachment: Status of Funds Statement

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